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INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT

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REFERENCES

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. The Committee for Cultural Institutions (Comitetul Penseamintelor Culturale), under the control of the Ministerial Council, is an official instrument for disseminating culture to the masses. Although it serves largely as a propaganda organ, it is used also to estimate and control public opinion. Its head office is at Strada Biserica Amzei No. 5, Bucharest. Chairman Mihail Roslanu, who ranks as a Deputy Minister, has two assistant chairmen, Dumitru Mihalache and Avramescu (fnu).
2. The Cultural Clubs (Camine Culturale) Section is engaged principally in shaping Soviet propaganda material to Rumanian requirements and in arranging for its dissemination in the smaller towns and villages by special emissaries. These emissaries hold conferences with local groups, which are made up of a representative of the Party, the Local Council (Sfatul Popular), and the 12 section leaders of the local Cultural Club. Representatives of the local press, such mass organizations as the Confederatia Generala a Muncii, the Uniunea Femeilor Democratice Romane, and the Uniunea Tineretului Muncitoresc, may also attend. The nominal subject matter of these conferences is the provision of libraries and lecture halls in the villages; agricultural, scientific, and medical subjects; concerts, recitals and performances of all types; and sports and gatherings held by Arlus, the Rumanian-Soviet Friendship Organization.
3. The Bucharest headquarters normally sends the director, the secretary, and the librarian of village Cultural Clubs. They are instructed to point out the advantages of Soviet working methods over those used by the West and the superiority of collective agriculture over capitalist farming. Special emphasis is placed on the suffering of the Yugoslav masses and the need to fight Titoist ideas.
4. The clubs collect information on wealthy peasants in the area, persons known to be reactionaries, persons known to be "politically passive", suitable candidates for political indoctrination, presence of partisans, rumors of partisan arms and munition depots, general progress made by the area in adjustment to the Communist regime, and percentage of supporters of the regime among the population.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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5. There are about 14,600 public libraries in Rumania. The average Cultural Club possesses a collection of 100 to 200 books, either sent by the Bucharest headquarters of the organization or privately contributed. Inspectors, with the aid of a printed catalogue supplied by the Party's publishing department, have checked the stock of all public libraries. Most translations [redacted] 25X1 publications have been withdrawn, and the collections now consist largely of publications sponsored by the Rumanian Communist Party and translations from Russian.
6. The libraries hold classes for illiterates. Although attendance is voluntary, peasants who fail to come are penalized by withholding seeds and cotton goods from them. In the Galati area a total of 6,400 illiterates was registered during a check up, but only 200 of these subsequently reported to the classes.
7. A movie is shown once a week at every cultural club, and they consist exclusively of Soviet propaganda material. This is first explained to the peasants and then made the subject of a general discussion.
8. If a club shows little progress (i.e. if the library and the illiterates' courses are not well attended), a representative of the Methodology Committee examines the position on the spot and makes recommendations.
9. Standard conferences are held on such subjects as Michurinist theory and the Soviet anti-malarial campaign. The proceedings are published and distributed to the clubs for reading to the members. Butnaru (fnu), assisted by six university students, heads this section in Bucharest.
10. In 1947 the total number of village Cultural Clubs in Rumania was 156. By 1950 the number had increased to 12,400. Most of these are located in homes confiscated from wealthy peasants, although some are in former saloons.
11. Approximately 250 persons are employed by the Cultural Committee. The director's salary is 50,000 lei per month, plus an expense account of 100,000 lei; a section director receives 32,000 lei; and an inspector receives 14,000 lei.
12. Certain Cultural Clubs are completely inactive because of anti-Communist feeling in the area. Such cases are known in Baile Herculane, Galati, Braila, Iasi, and Ramnicul-Sarat. Parish priests and teachers are considered to be the main source of anti-Communist influence.
13. The following personalities are known:
 - a. Matei Aslan, a cartoonist employed by the moving pictures section of the Committee.
 - b. Avianu, fnu, a journalist on the staff of the humorous periodical Urzica.
 - c. Florin Calafeteanu, sculptor and cartoonist for Scanteia and Neuer Weg; (New Directions) who signs his work Calf. [redacted] 25X1 anti-Communist.
 - d. Ghita Popescu, a draughtsman, employed by the moving pictures section of the Committee.
 - e. Radu Popescu, formerly a Party member on the staff of Scanteia, was dismissed from the Party and his position because he had been a member of Maniu's Party. He is a strong anti-Communist and lives at Strada Radulescu Assan No. 18, Bucharest.
 - f. Sadi Rudeanu is a journalist on the staff of Urzica.

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1. Comment: The Cultural Institutions Committee as of February 1953 consisted of the following persons: President C. Nistor
Vice-Presidents Dumitru Mihalache
Dr. Iosif Bogdan
L. Avramescu

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